



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Arizona Department of Public Safety seizes major narcotics “load” and cash “load” in the West Valley

Fewer collisions allow officers to target drug couriers

Collisions are down more than 17 percent on the freeway system in metropolitan Phoenix thanks to the Arizona Department of Public Safety’s Photo Enforcement Program and that is most apparent in the West Valley. DPS Officers working Interstate 10 discover they have more time to conduct proactive law enforcement activities, including investigative efforts and traffic stops that, in many cases, result in significant narcotic seizures.

On January 20, 2009, at about 11:00 p.m., a DPS officer stopped a Gold Buick Century for a traffic violation on the westbound lanes of Interstate 10 at milepost 80.7 in Maricopa County. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed three large black duffel bags in the trunk containing a total of 152 pounds of marijuana. The driver and passenger were both arrested.

Driver: Cesar Cristobal Cordova, 32, Tucson

Passenger: Ariane Alvarez, 20, Tucson

Charges: Transportation of marijuana, Possession of marijuana for sale, and possession of marijuana.

On January 26, 2009, at about 9:30 p.m., a DPS officer stopped a white Honda Odyssey for a traffic violation on westbound Interstate 10 at milepost 73.0 in Maricopa County. During a search, the passenger attempted to conceal and then discard a grocery bag containing five bundles of U.S. currency. The total amount of currency found was \$28,000. Both the driver and passenger were arrested.

Driver: Ahmad Jalili, 27, San Diego

Passenger: Sheida Shahrikandi, 23, West Hills, California

Charges: Money Laundering

photos of the marijuana are available

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov